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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 002390

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/SE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/14/2004

TAGS: [MARR](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: TURKISH MFA SAYS EU NOT LOBBYING AGAINST ARTICLE
98 AGREEMENT

REF: A. SECSTATE 92117

[B](#). ANKARA 2317

(U) Classified by Polcouns John Kunstadter; reasons 1.5 b and
d.

(C) In response to reftel A, we asked Feza Ozturk, head of the MFA International Political Organizations Department, whether the EU has approached the GOT on the issue of signing an Article 98 agreement with the USG. Ozturk said the EU has not raised the issue with the GOT since August 2002, when EU-candidate Romania's decision to sign an Article 98 agreement led to EU demarches to the GOT and other governments around the world. He said the GOT is not facing outside pressure to delay an agreement, and repeated reftel B arguments that higher-level MFA officials believe the GOT should delay an agreement due to the conflict in Iraq.

PEARSON